

Appl. No.: 09/523,446
Amdt. dated June 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

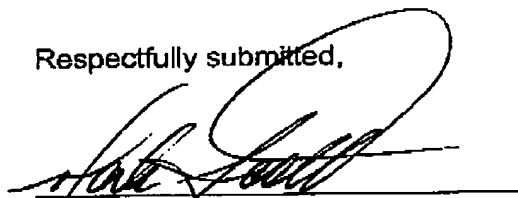
Applicants received the Office Action dated April 6, 2004, in which the Examiner: (1) rejected claims 4-5, 14, 16-18, 20, 22-25, 27-28 and 31-35 as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,978 ("Tuzhilin") and Jiawei Han's "Towards On-Line Analytical Mining in Large Databases," ACM SIGMOD Record, 27:1, pp. 97-107, 1998 (referred to as "Han" hereafter); and (2) objected to claims 2-3, 6-13, 15 and 29-30 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable.

In this response, Applicants wrote claims 2, 3, 15 and 29 in independent form such that claims 2-3, 7-13, 15 and 29-30 are now in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner. Merely to expedite prosecution, Applicants opt not to address the Examiner's art rejection of claims 4-6, 14, 16-18, 20, 22-25, 27-28, and 31-35 and thus cancel claims 4-6, 14, 16-18, 20, 22-25, 27-28, and 31-35. Applicants may opt to file a continuation application to prosecute further claims 4-6, 14, 16-18, 20, 22-25, 27-28, and 31-35.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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